

CENSORSHIP PLANNING

Survey by CIG has disclosed that an organization does not exist at the present time for the purpose of engaging in coordinated comprehensive planning for a national censorship program for use in the event of emergency or state of war.

A confidential memorandum prepared by Mr. Byron Price, Director of Censorship 1941 - 1945, entitled "A Basis for Censorship Planning" was presented to the President Aug. 24, 1945. In this memo the importance of advance planning for censorship operations is cited. A copy of this memo was forwarded to CIG informally by the Bureau of the Budget, it being the thought of the Director of the Bureau of the Budget that NIA should consider the assumption of the responsibility of directing and coordinating the necessary planning by the several appropriate Federal Agencies and Departments. ICAPS proposed that CIG undertake the coordination of planning activities. This proposal was approved by the Executive Director of CIG. Action was thereafter held in abeyance at the direction of the Director of Central Intelligence for the reason that it was felt that the organization was not well enough established at the time (Nov. 1946) to undertake the load.

The importance of this subject should not be discounted. Resumption of consideration for the activation of this planning function, primarily one of security, should be undertaken at an early date and the necessary NIA and CIG directives be issued to authorize implementation in the Security Branch (on its Foreign Affairs).